

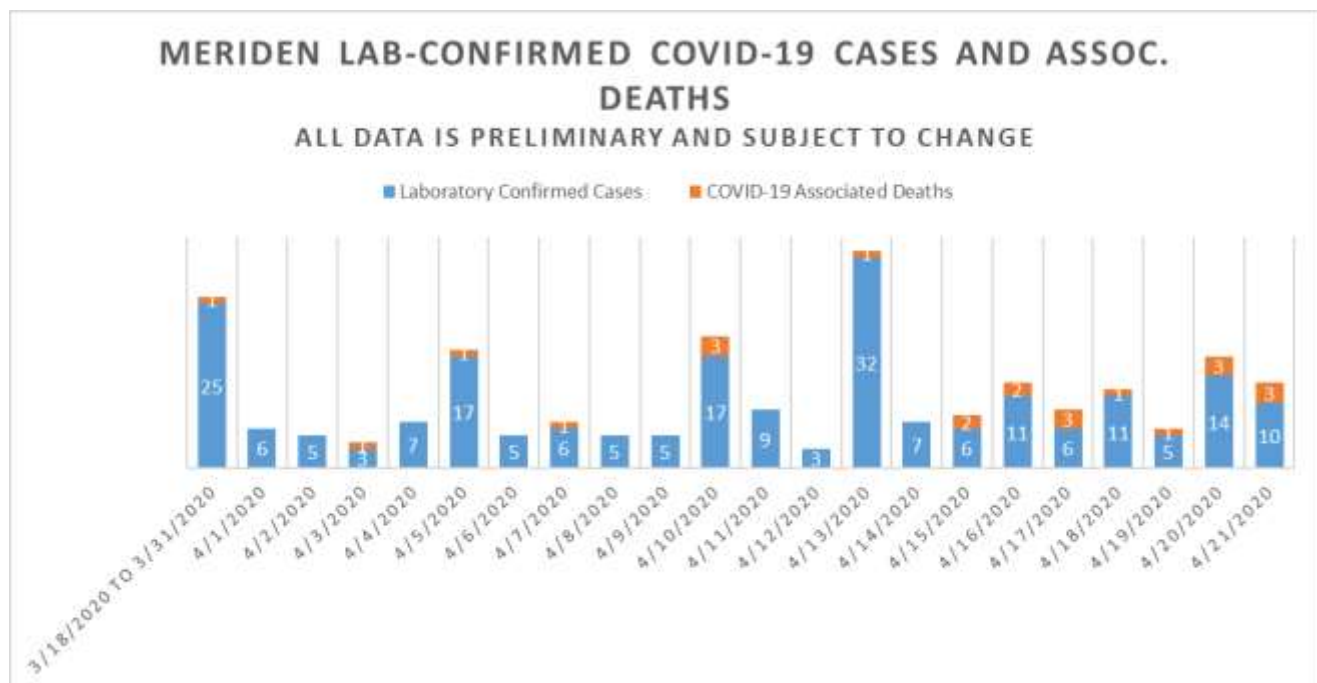
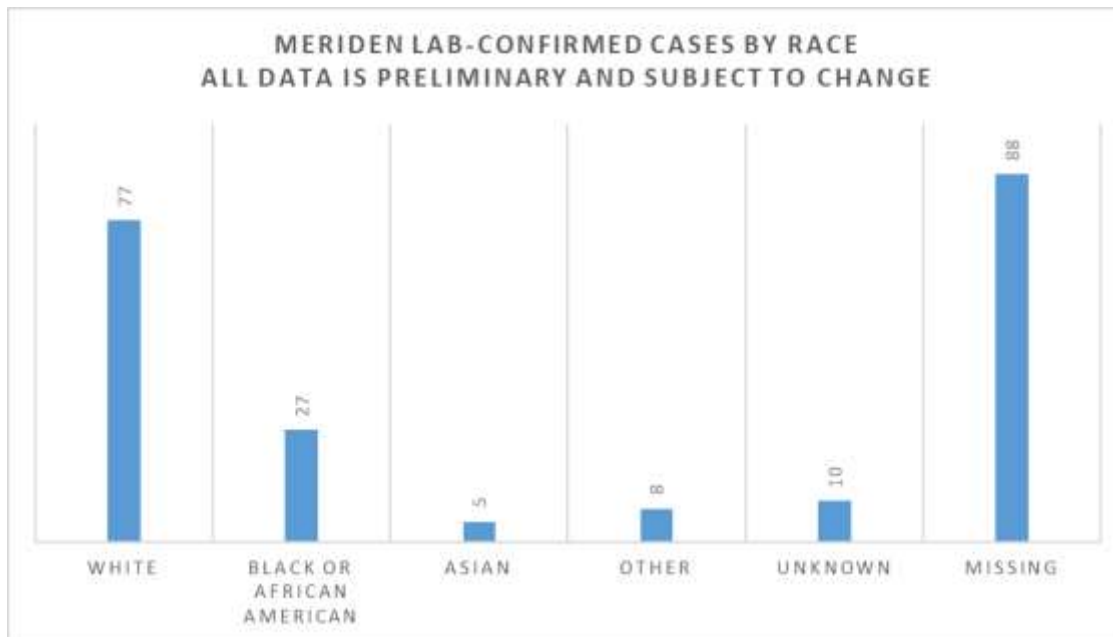


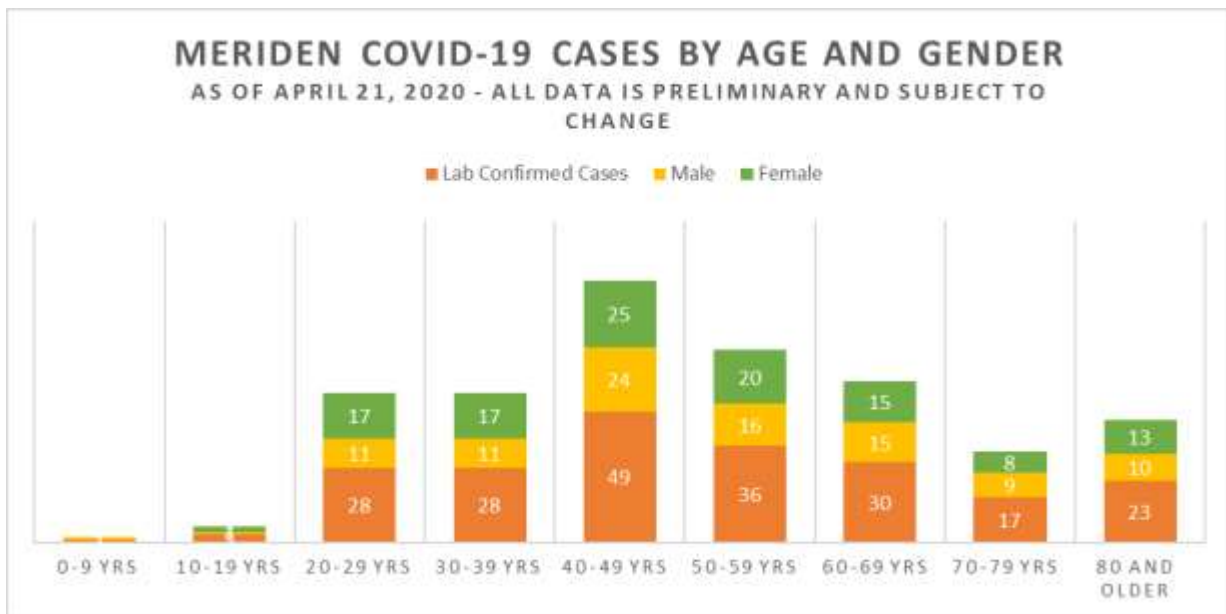
Meriden COVID-19 Response Update – April 22, 2020

From the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services

- As of Tuesday, April 21, 2020 there have been 215 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Meriden and 23 COVID-19 associated deaths. Please note the state report is noting 24; we believe one of these cases is a double. Age ranges for deaths are 31 to 95; 14 are male and 9 are female. State number are updated after 4pm daily by the state health department. Statewide test data can be viewed at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus> (click on the blue box labeled Test Data in Connecticut).
- The number of confirmed cases in Meriden is not a precise indication of the actual cases of COVID-19 in our community due to a lack of testing. Our data comes from the CT Department of Public Health. Test results may be reported several days after the result. Patient information may be updated after results have already been reported. Changes will be reflected in the new daily totals.
- The [Council of State and Territorial State Epidemiologists](#) has set an official case definition for COVID-19. This standardizes cases across the country. Three criteria are used to define the case: clinical (meaning symptoms), laboratory (the test), and epidemiological linkage (meaning the exposure). See section [VII of this linked document](#).
- The city evaluates our community's social distancing and safety efforts daily, and make decisions to make our community a safer place. Yesterday this included:
 - *None – stay home and stay safe!*
- The city has been notified that the Westfield property in Meriden will be open as part of the state's nursing home surge protocol. This facility, which will be operated by Anthena Montowese SNF LLC will be a convalescent care center for those who are COVID positive and ready to be discharged from acute care, but still need some level of care before they can go home. CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) has written into their Consent Order written assurances that significant protocols exist to protect patients, staff and by extension, the surrounding community. The state [Facilities, Licensing and Investigation Section \(FLIS\)](#) is taking the lead on oversight; our office will be in weekly contact with site administrators.
- Please consider downloading the app ["How We Feel"](#). This app was talked about extensively on the [Governor's Press Briefing](#) held April 20.
- Another interesting website is the [Facebook & Carnegie Mellon University COVID-19 Symptom](#) Map. The map shows an estimated percentage of people with COVID-19 symptoms, not cases, per county in the United States.

- Starting on April 20, 2020, the downloads from the CT Electronic Disease Surveillance System (how we receive notice of reportable disease) started documenting race of lab-confirmed cases. As of yesterday, data was inputted for 127 of our 215 confirmed cases. This data is below.





For public health surveillance, COVID-19-associated deaths include persons who tested positive for COVID-19 around the time of death and persons who were not tested for COVID-19 whose death certificate lists COVID-19 disease as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

*****The data above is preliminary and subject to change. Test results may be reported several days after the results. Data sources include the Dr. Katherine A. Kelley State Public Health Laboratory, Hospitals, and Commercial Labs. COVID-19 is a reportable disease to local public health departments.***

We need your help to “flatten the curve”. PLEASE do not lose sight of [practicing the everyday preventive actions](#) below. They are simple and *they work*:

- If you are older or have a serious chronic illness, please avoid crowds.
- Practice social distancing – stay home! *Work together by staying apart!*
- If you must go out and social distancing is hard to maintain, the [CDC recommends wearing a cloth face covering](#).
- Do not have visitors over to your home.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue; throw out the tissue in a lined trash container.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid hand shaking – wave hello instead.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily. These include tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles using a regular household detergent and water.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Always wash your hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.
- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious foods.

COVID-19 is a rapidly changing emerging public health issue. We urge Meriden residents to stay informed. Please visit the following websites often:

- CDC Coronavirus website – www.cdc.gov. Click on the Coronavirus picture.
- CT Department of Public Health website: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>. This website also has information on behavioral health resources for coping with stress and talking with children during infectious disease outbreaks.
- City updates are being posted at <https://www.meridenct.gov/covid-19-information/>

In addition, there are 2 hotlines for information:

- Individuals who have general questions that are not answered on the websites above can also [call 2-1-1 for assistance](#). The information line is available 24 hours a day and has multilingual assistance and TDD/TTY access for those with a hearing impairment. The hotline is only intended to be used by individuals who are not experiencing symptoms but may have general questions related to COVID-19. Anyone experiencing symptoms is strongly urged to contact their medical provider to seek treatment.
- [Hartford Healthcare COVID-19 Hotline](#): 1-833-621-0600. This line is staffed 24/7 by medical professionals.